

Summary of Historical Figures

Directions: Listed below are the historical figures that will take part in the press conference, along with a summary of the views of each. Use this information to help you prepare for the press conference. This should be especially helpful to the Historians.



William Du Bois—One of the founders of the NAACP, he fought against racial prejudice and for civil rights for African Americans. He believed that a fully integrated socialist society could achieve racial and economic equality.



Hiram Wesley Evans—The Imperial Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) through much of the 1920s, he spouted hatred for minorities, unions, and communists. Under his leadership lynchings, bombings, and harassment of KKK opponents increased.



Marcus Garvey—Founder of the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA), he advocated racial pride, black nationalism, economic independence for African Americans, and racial separation. His belief in the fundamental injustices of American society led to his starting the Black Star Line to transfer American blacks back to Africa.



Charles Evans Hughes—Chief justice of the Supreme Court from 1930 to 1941, he championed the cause of justice while defending socialists and labor organizations against the prejudices of the early 1920s.



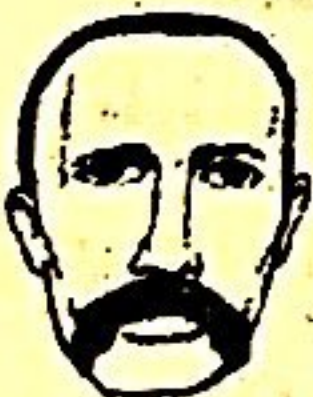
John L. Lewis—President of the United Mine Workers of America (UMW) from the early 1920s to the mid 1960s, he fought big business and the government to gain better wages and working conditions for impoverished miners and other laborers.



A. Mitchell Palmer—Attorney general from 1919 and 1921, he orchestrated a vigorous effort to arrest and deport communists, socialists, and other leftists that he believed were planning a revolution against the U.S. government.



Judge Webster Thayer—A Massachusetts judge, he tried the famous Sacco-Vanzetti case, a trial of two Italian anarchists for robbery and murder, in which Sacco and Vanzetti were eventually executed. Many believed Thayer convicted them because they were Italian and held unpopular political views, not because they were guilty.



Bartolomeo Vanzetti—An Italian immigrant who espoused anti-government views and avoided the draft in World War I. He was tried, convicted, and executed for allegedly participating in a robbery and murder in 1920. He and many others felt that his conviction was based on his immigrant status and radical political views rather than strong evidence.



Ida B. Wells—A crusading journalist, she spoke out for decades against the racial inequalities evident in the United States. Her articles and speeches raised people's consciousness about the excesses of prejudice, particularly lynching, in the United States.